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Smith Fork's Park by tkcent



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Kearney splash pad



Liberty Parks and Rec



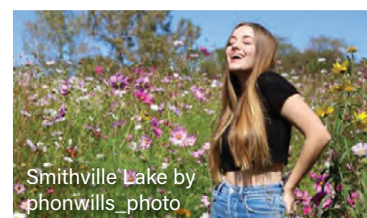
Canterbury Park by Julie Kazanowski

Visit all our
welcoming
communities



Velo Garage & Tap House

In this guide, you'll find
a plethora of things to
see and do throughout
Clay County. We hope
to see you soon!



Smithville Lake by phonwills_photo



Iron District

WELCOME TO CLAY COUNTY!

This year we are turning 200 years old, and you are invited to join us for our bicentennial celebrations. Jan. 2, 2022 is more than just a historic milestone, it is also the start of an entire year of exciting events and community fun. Looking through this publication, you will discover family-friendly, recreational and educational activities and opportunities we offer throughout the year. You may need to come back again to not miss out on all the festivities!

Clay County offers an abundance of entertainment and cultural opportunities. Our cities have everything, from the big-city excitement of Kansas City to a variety of smaller communities with vibrant night life to those with friendly, small-town atmospheres. Explore our one-of-a-kind shops or dine in your choice of award-winning restaurants. Clay County cooks up an impressive selection of cuisines from unique restaurants, delicious grills, diners and so much more!

Beyond the entertainment, we are blessed with a breathtaking natural environment. Explore our parks, golf courses, hiking trails and special outdoor events. Embrace Clay County's scenic beauty, from our historic nature preserves to the panoramic views at Smithville Lake.

Clay County is a growing and vibrant community. We honor the generations of people whose hard work, generous spirit and dedication to excellence built Clay County into the dynamic place it is today - a safe and healthy home for our families with a warm welcome for visitors.

Whether you are a resident or visitor, join us as we wish Clay County a happy 200th birthday! This invitation is for more than just a birthday party, we want you to be part of the adventure! The story of Clay County is one to be shared and celebrated. Come to Clay County as a visitor, and leave with treasured memories as a friend.

Jerry Nolte
Clay County presiding commissioner



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If you or your business would like to be considered for inclusion in the 2023 county guide, email us at news@mycouriertribune.com.

On the cover: The iconic Children's Fountain is located at North Oak Trafficway and East 32nd Ave. in North Kansas City.

CLAY COUNTY:

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

By Dr. Cecelia A. Robinson, historian of Clay County African American Legacy, Inc.

The year 2022 will mark the bicentennial of Clay County. Liberty, the oldest and largest city as well county seat is also nearing 200 years.

Two hundred years ago, Liberty's demographics included southern farmers and their enslaved African Americans from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. These pioneers brought their culture, value and traditions to an antebellum city, leaving footprints in the annals of history.

The Civil War, World War I and World War II were eras defined by slavery, segregation, discrimination and Jim Crow racism for African Americans in Liberty, and the Great Migration and Great Depression brought even more challenges and disparities.

Today, Liberty stands at the forefront of human relations and diversity initiatives in Clay County. The first suburban city in the state to celebrate Juneteenth, Liberty was also the first to host the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration, providing 38 years of community harmony and understanding.

Moreover, Clay Countians 4 Inclusion is a social justice organization creating and promoting initiatives to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in Liberty and around Clay County.

Garrison School, established in 1877, remains the only African American School still standing in Clay County. Now a cultural center, Garrison School is a diversity hub, linking past to present through an African American art gallery, artifacts, sculptures and murals as well as programs and films that help build bridges between cultures. In addition, quality theater productions and monthly jazz entertainment can be found at the center thanks to Corbin Theatre.

In June of 2022, Clay County African American Legacy Inc., the nonprofit organization for Garrison School, will erect a legacy memorial in the once segregated section of Fairview Cemetery in honor of over 750 African Americans buried in mostly unmarked graves.

A walk around Liberty's downtown square reflects the change everyone wants to see in society. Around the old courthouse, now the county administration building, stands the Susan B. Anthony suffragette sculpture, which pays tribute to women voters; and a Freedom Fountain Monument, which honors African Americans who made contributions to Clay County. La Costa Mexicana and Luigi's Italian restaurants celebrate the various ethnic groups that call our county home and invite those craving an ethnic food experience.

Liberty, a city with Old World charm, is a cultural and historic regional respite.

Other African American Historic Sites in Liberty

Murals painted on Garrison School, 502 N. Water St.

African American Mural in County Administration Building 3rd floor, 1 Courthouse Square

China Slaughter Reading Park, 200 W. Mill St.

China Slaughter Reading Park



Freedom Fountain



Football Town Team, organized by Arthur Willis in 1915



EDITOR'S PICKS

WORLDS OF FUN/ OCEANS OF FUN worldsoffun.com

Worlds of Fun is a regional amusement park located off Interstate 435 in Kansas City. Themed after the Jules Verne novel "Around the World in 80 Days," Worlds of Fun offers over 100 rides, shows and attractions. In 2013, Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun combined park thrills into a one-ticket admission. Guests now enjoy 235-acres of rides and slides in one park for one price.



IRON DISTRICT irondistrictnkc.com

Utilizing colorful repurposed shipping containers and located on Iron Street in North Kansas City, Iron District is a unique, outdoor dining and retail destination created in a courtyard atmosphere to support local startups.



GARRISON SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER ccaal-garrisonschool.org

African American residents in Liberty established Garrison School in 1877. That school stood until 1910 when it burned. In 1911, the community opened a new Black school, which included much of the building you see today on Water Street. Clay County African American Legacy, Inc. now owns the school building, which serves as a museum, home to Corbin Theatre, and as a recreational center for cultural and educational events like celebrations for Juneteenth and Kwanzaa.



CHICKEN N PICKLE chickennpickle.com

Located on the corner of 18th and Burlington streets in North Kansas City, this one-of-a-kind entertainment complex includes a restaurant, 8 pickleball courts, a bar and entertainment space, outdoor lawn games and a living room with fire pits and TV screens.



SMITHVILLE LAKE visitclaymo.com/p/play/outdoors/smithville-lake

Smithville Lake, located in Smithville, is a 7,200-acre lake with more than 175 miles of shoreline. Amenities and recreational opportunities include swim beaches, campsites, marinas with boat rentals, golf and disc golf courses, a visitor center with wildlife viewing stations, walking/biking and equestrian trails, the Kansas City Trapshooters Association, a nature center, public hunting in season, grassland revitalization project and waterfowl refuge.



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS TROLLEY estrolley.com

There's no better way to experience the scenery and rich history of Excelsior Springs than in one of the chamber of commerce's trolleys. Tours are available throughout the year and include wine and dine, historic, paranormal, holiday lights and Easter Bunny options. Trolleys are also available for private event rental.



JESSE JAMES FARM & MUSEUM

jessejamesmuseum.org

Found in rural Kearney is the historic birthplace, original burial site and homestead of one of the nation's most infamous outlaws: Jesse James. The birthplace on Jesse James Farm Road features one of the oldest homes in the area, which was built before the Civil War. It is now a museum operated by Clay County Parks and Historic Sites. The site has undergone hundreds of thousands of dollars in restoration work in recent years and hosts tours for visitors from around the world.



KEARNEY AMPHITHEATER

kearneyamphitheater.com

Kearney Amphitheater, nestled in the picturesque hills of Jesse James Park off Missouri Highway 33 in Kearney, is a state-of-the-art, outdoor music venue overlooking a spring-fed lake. The amphitheater provides a home for regional music festivals, local group performances and large concerts featuring national headliners like Justin Moore, The Band Perry, Scotty McCreery and LeAnn Rimes.



LINDEN SQUARE lindensquare.info

A gathering place for friends, family and community to enjoy live entertainment, activities, festivals and events in downtown Gladstone, Linden Square on Northeast 70th Street is a hive activity throughout the year. Events featured throughout the year include concerts; food, art, drink and children's festivals; winter ice skating; family movie nights; paint and sip parties; trivia nights; and the area's premier triathlon for children ages 3 to 5.



SHOAL CREEK LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

shoalcreeklivinghistorymuseum.com

Shoal Creek Museum is nestled quietly on 80 acres out of the 1,000 acres that makes up Hodge Park in Kansas City. The museum has 21 structures with 17 authentic 19th century buildings dating from 1807-1885. The buildings are open to the public and re-enactors bring the village to life with skits, skirmishes and demonstrations, providing a glimpse into what life was like nearly 200 years ago.



SUPPORT LOCAL

Mama & Me
Children's Boutique

Clay County is home to many local communities with areas that offer historic charm, walkability and unique flair. Whether looking to shop 'til you drop or try unique bars and restaurants.

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS

Downtown Excelsior Springs features a charming mix of historical landmarks like The Hall of Waters, specialty shops, a slew of restaurants and two breweries. Grace Wins Home Studio features stylish home décor. Find the latest in women's fashion trends at Style by Ry or Blue Bird Couture.

DOWNTOWN KEARNEY

Downtown Kearney features shopping and eatery destinations centering around Lions Park and Old Church Plaza, the original home of one of the city's oldest churches, now a lively restaurant. Home Décor can be found at Paisley Candle and Home, women's apparel at Three Birdies Boutique and Zora Boutique, great burgers and beer at Fat Boyz and family-friendly dining at D'Creamery and Gino's Italian Cuisine.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LIBERTY

The Historic Downtown Liberty Square has dozens of boutiques and eateries along with options for crafting, all within walking distance around the Square. Pick up art not found elsewhere at The Artisan Market or buy the perfect outfit for baby at Mama and Me. Try your hand at making the perfect tie-dye shirt at All About Tie Dye and finish with a great meal, with area options that include authentic Mexican and Italian cuisines.

NORTHTOWN

About two dozen locally-owned businesses are located in the heart of North Kansas City, a.k.a. Northtown. Here you'll find handfults of unique breweries and bars like Callsign Brewing and Pat's Pub; the area's only kombucha brewery in the Brewery; award-winning and locally-loved restaurants like Tay's Burger Shack; eclectic book and record stores like FM Music Vintage Sounds; and Screenland Armour, a hot spot cinema offering mainstream, independent and retro films.

SMITHVILLE HERITAGE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Downtown Smithville offers well-reviewed dining and shopping options along with special events that attract hundreds all year long. Have a delicious cup of joe at Cornerstone Coffee, handmade fudge at Nellie's Sweet Shoppe and a great meal and live music at Humphrey's Bar & Grill. For handmade soaps and home décor, head to Thorny Creek Market.

TOUR. TASTE. SHOP. STAY. in Historic Downtown Liberty

Visit Historic Downtown Liberty

A thriving historic downtown area with a timeless blend of American history with museums, public art sculptures and murals, upbeat shopping, fabulous restaurants, and the home of William Jewell College. Historic Downtown Liberty is the place to shop and support locally owned businesses.

Featuring 25-plus boutiques, gift shops, and countless restaurants around the Square, nestled on the side streets plus the Corbin Mill district with additional shops. In addition to shopping, dining, and exploring, Historic Downtown Liberty is home to several special events throughout the year.

Find it all in Historic Downtown Liberty!



2022 Historic Downtown Liberty Events

Thursday, Jan. 27
Girls Night Out

Saturday, Feb. 19
Let's Wine about Winter

Thursday, Apr. 21
Girls Night Out

Saturday, Apr. 30
Cruise Night

Saturdays
May 7 - Oct 29
Farmer's Market

Saturday, May 28
Cruise Night

Saturday, June 18
5th Annual Liberty Quilt Walk
(Hosted by Quilting is My Therapy)

Saturday, June 25
Cruise Night

Thursday, July 7
Girls Night Out

Thursday, July 28 -
Saturday, July 30
Christmas in July

Saturday, July 30
Cruise Night

Saturday, Aug. 20
11th Annual Dog Days of Summer
Craft Beer Crawl

Saturday, Aug. 27
Cruise Night

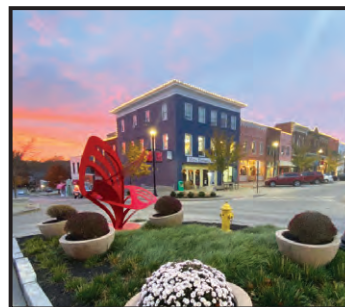
Thursday, Sept. 8 -
Saturday, Sept 10
Fall Open House

Friday, Sept. 23 -
Sunday, Sept. 25
Liberty Fall Festival
(Hosted by Chamber of Commerce)

Thursday, Oct. 6
Girls Night Out

Saturday, Nov. 26
Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Dec. 3
Hometown Holidays and Shopping Passport



www.visitlibertymo.com



www.historicdowntownliberty.org

Follow us on Facebook  and Instagram 



CAN'T MISS EVENTS

photo by tkcent

Nehemiah Fest

3rd weekend September | Smith's Fork Park, Smithville



Juneteenth

TBA June 2022 | Liberty



photo by
Bill Coulter

Eagle Days

Jan. 8-9 | Paradise Pointe Golf Course Complex, Smithville



Gatsby Days

First weekend in May | Excelsior Springs



Oktoberfest

TBA in October | downtown Kearney



Make Music Day

June 21 | historic downtown Liberty

Snake Saturday

March 12 | North Kansas City





CLAY COUNTY: BUSTLING WITH INNOVATION FOR 200 YEARS

*By David Slater, executive director
Clay County Economic
Development Council*

Why do people invest, live, work and play in Clay County? We provide strong schools with a close relationship with their business partners to make our graduates workforce ready, whether it is learning a skilled trade or preparing for college. Also, Clay County takes law enforcement seriously. Three of our towns made the FBI's list of the 20 safest cities in Missouri. Then there's our rolling hills, which give our residents the option of rural, suburban or urban living opportunities with the ability to drive to downtown Kansas City or Kansas City International airport in minutes.

The Clay County Economic Development Council is proud to take a leading role in keeping our county special. Through our Northland Education and Business Alliance, we get educators and business leaders in the same room with the emphasis on making our students the best that they can be, thus providing an excellent workforce.

The EDC is also leading the charge for a game-changing development at the intersection of Interstate 435 and Highway 152. Named the "587," the plan is to have entertainment, sports parks and recreation, specialty restaurants and retail, civic opportunities, class-A office space and housing options connected by trails and encompassing two golf courses.

In addition, partnerships with large-scale developers leading the pack in terms of innovations are all around in Clay County. Construction is on the way for one of the world's largest data centers, the Golden Plains Technology Park, in Clay County. And, Ford Motor Company's plant in Clay County employs over 7,200 while making the F-150 pick-up truck and Transit vans. Cerner, a leader in health care, software and tech innovations is also headquartered here.

Come give us a look, you might just want to stay in Clay!

Cerner World Headquarters

KEEPING CLAY COUNTY SAFE FOR 200 YEARS

By Sarah Boyd, PR manager,
Clay County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Will Akin

The Clay County Sheriff's Office was born on the edge of the United States' western frontier in 1822.

The Office originated in Ray County and Missouri Gov. Alexander McNair appointed John Harris as sheriff Jan. 1, 1821. Sheriff Harris was appointed as the new Clay County sheriff in March 1822, after Clay County was incorporated.

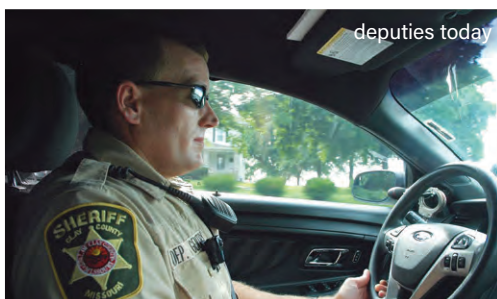
The county built its first jail in 1833, which was overseen by sheriff's deputies. After the founder of the Mormon religion Joseph Smith and his followers were imprisoned there in 1838, it became a site of historical significance for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The most infamous time in the Clay County Sheriff's 200-year history was during the reign of the Jesse James gang. Jesse James is credited with committing America's first daylight bank robbery at the Clay County Savings Bank in 1866 in Liberty, the county seat. An innocent bystander was shot during the incident. James and his brother Frank united with other outlaws, committing a string of violent robberies around the country. It was ultimately Clay County Sheriff James Timberlake, who conspired with James' own gang members, who brought an end to the crime spree in 1882.

The county jail moved out of the courthouse basement in 1927 to a newly constructed facility at 9 Water St. in Liberty. Sixty years later, the jail and administrative operations moved a couple blocks south with the opening of the Rooney Justice Center in 1985.

Today, the Clay County Sheriff's Office is the third-largest sheriff's office in Missouri with more than 230 employees that include tactical team members, deputies trained in crisis intervention, 911 dispatchers, K-9 patrol deputies and school resource deputies in the North Kansas City School District. Under Sheriff Will Akin, the office's mission is to "embrace change, create value and inspire others."

Recognized as a progressive law enforcement agency throughout the region, the members of the sheriff's office look forward to serving the people of Clay County for another 200 years.



deputies today



James Timberlake
1878-1882



circa mid-20th century

HEALTHY IN CLAY

Thanks, in part, to access to five renowned health care systems that are innovative in technology and care, Clay Countians and visitors receive state-of-the-art health care.



Excelsior Springs Hospital

1700 Rainbow Blvd., Excelsior Springs | eshospital.org

Primary care clinic, acute care/skilled nursing, ER, access to home health and hospice, pharmacy, rehabilitation and outpatient services, radiology, cardiopulmonary, telehealth and transitional care.

Liberty Hospital

2525 Glenn Hendren Drive, Liberty | libertyhospital.org

Specialty care clinics and affiliations with MU Health Care for orthopedic surgeons and St. Luke's Cancer Institute; and specialties including cardiology, orthopedics, breast care, cosmetic and plastic surgery, pain management, pulmonology and sleep disorders, advanced spine and brain, sports medicine and urgent care/emergency care.

North Kansas City Hospital

Hospital oncology partners with The University of Kansas Cancer Center and provides access to clinical trials only available at the nation's leading cancer centers. Together with Meritas Health, the system offers 35 convenient locations including a 451-licensed-bed facility, express and urgent care clinics and several primary and specialty care clinics.

St. Luke's

5830 NW Barry Road, Kansas City | saintlukeskc.org

Services include inpatient and outpatient diagnostic testing, maternity unit with neonatal intensive care, comprehensive rehabilitation services and on-campus physician offices as well as ER with access to lifesaving heart and stroke protocols.

Another St. Luke's location, at 601 S. U.S. Highway 169 in Smithville, offers a primary care clinic, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation and behavioral health units for adults.



Visit the Kearney Historic Museum



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200 YEARS OF CLAY COUNTY

From the Past

Clay County is celebrating its bicentennial Jan. 2, 2022. Named after U.S. Rep. Henry Clay and home to the internationally notorious Jesse James and his family, Clay County traces its beginnings to some of the most tumultuous times in what would become American history before the Civil War. The Clay County Bicentennial Commission was established to commemorate this rich history and heritage.

Today, Clay is a first-class designated and the fifth-most populous county in Missouri. We are home to some of the fastest-growing cities and robust local economies in the state. Clay has come a long way from its humble beginnings.

As the county celebrates, we also want to look ahead toward what is to come. Considering our heritage of explorers, pioneers and trailblazers, the Bicentennial Commission will kick off the bicentennial with the Celebrate With Clay launch event at Corbin Mill in February. The commission will be passing out bicentennial goodies and unveiling a new mascot to celebrate the year's festivities.



photo by KCWJ



Kearney Amphitheater



Liberty, MO

To the Future

Did you know?



In 1972, Clay Countians buried a time capsule on the Clay County Courthouse Square. 50 years later, in 2022, a new generation of Clay County citizens will be digging up the past. Join Clay County and the Bicentennial Commission in the opening of the 1972 Time Capsule in June. The commission will also be burying a new time capsule for future Clay Countians to unearth.

The Kansas City Chiefs held training camp right here in Clay County. From 1963 to 1990, the Chiefs prepared for the season at the historic William Jewell College in Liberty. Kick off the bicentennial with the CELEBRATE WITH CLAY launch event and Kansas City Chiefs watch party in January. The commission will be passing out bicentennial goodies, unveiling a new mascot and cheering the Chiefs to victory. Learn more at claycountymo.gov.



Bicentennial Commission



TWA Museum

HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS



Atkins-Johnson Farm

4109 NE Pleasant Valley Road, Gladstone | atkinsjohnsonfarm.com

Airline History Museum

201 NW Lou Holland Drive, Kansas City | airlinehistory.org

Jesse James Birthplace

21216 Jesse James Farm Road, Kearney | jessejamesmuseum.org

Jesse James Bank Museum

103 N. Water St., Liberty | facebook.com/JesseJamesBankMuseum

Shoal Creek Living History Museum

7000 NE Barry Road, Kansas City
shoalcreeklivinghistorymuseum.com

Kearney Historic Museum

101 S. Jefferson St., Kearney
visitmo.com/things-to-do/kearney-historic-museum

Mt. Gilead Church & School

15918 Plattsburg Road, Kearney
facebook.com/HistoricMtGileadChurch

Clay County Museum

14 N. Main St., Liberty | claycountymuseum.org

Historic Liberty Jail

216 N. Main St., Liberty | facebook.com/HistoricLibertyJail

Pharis Farm

20611 EE Highway, Liberty | facebook.com/HistoricPharisFarm

Watkins Woolen Mill

26600 Park Road N., Lawson
mostateparks.com/park/watkins-woolen-mill-state-historic-site

Excelsior Springs Museum

101 E. Broadway St., Excelsior Springs | esmuseum.com

Hall of Waters

201 E. Broadway Ave., Excelsior Springs
visitexcelsior.com/excelsior-history

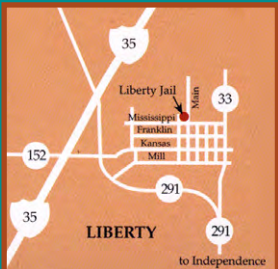
HISTORIC LIBERTY JAIL

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Come experience a piece of early history at the Liberty Jail. You'll see a true-to-life-size reconstruction of the original 1833 jail as you witness an engaging audio-visual presentation and learn about significant happenings that took place in the jail.



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CREATIVE LIBATIONS

Whether searching for a place to grab a drink while watching the Chiefs, catch up with friends and family over a glass of wine or have a date night with a classy mixed drink, Clay County offers a myriad of options. Check out these unique local spots for some of the most creative cocktails around.

TRAGO BAR & TAPAS

9261 NE 83rd Terrace, Kansas City
tragokc.com

Signature offerings include the Cosmo ChiChi, Mambo Mai Tai and Cuban Highball. The Mai Tai is made with white rum, amaretto, Rompope Vanille liqueur, orange juice and grenadine. The highball features fresh mint, lime juice, white rum, simple syrup, Sprite and soda water.



CHAPPELL'S RESTAURANT & SPORTS MUSEUM

323 Armour Road, North Kansas City
chappellskc.com

Locals here love Four Hands Brewing Company's Chocolate Stout, the classic Negroni, Tokyo Long Island and Chappell's original Frostbite. The Frostbite is made with tequila, blue curacao, cream and Godiva chocolate liquor.



JOHNNIE'S JAZZ BAR & GRILLE

1903 Victory Drive, Liberty
johnnieskc.com

An ode to Kansas City and its nickname, the signature cocktail here is the Paris of the Plains. It consists of Grey Goose L'Orange, elderflower liquor, simple syrup, grapefruit juice and club soda served with an orange peel garnish.



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claycountysavings.com



75153640

WINE, BREW & BBQ TOO

Make a weekend of it and visit each stop on this list to create your own tour of some of Clay County's most beloved cities, wines, brews and BBQ.

LADOGA RIDGE WINERY

100 E. Pope Lane, Smithville

ladogaridgewinery.com

This winery near Smithville Lake is the perfect place to relax with some of the best wine and views in the area. Try the Yankee Smith, named after the founder of Smithville. This wine is a dry, oak-aged blend of Missouri red varietals.





JOUSTING PIGS & 3HALVES BREWING

110 E. Kansas St., Liberty

Joustingpigsbbq.com 3halvesbrewingco.com

In a shared space in the heart of downtown Liberty, Jousting Pigs BBQ and 3Halves Brewing complement each other perfectly. Try the year-round Billy Strange IPA with Jousting Pigs' famous pork belly burnt ends and brisket. Don't forget the delicious cheesy corn and beans.



DIDDY'S KITCHEN BBQ & BREWERY

103 S. Jefferson St., Kearney

facebook.com/diddyskitchenbbqandbrewery

Housed in a historic church building, Diddy's Kitchen in downtown Kearney has a menu packed with more than 40 homemade beers and smoked meats. Try the Diddy Kong, a sandwich piled with pulled pork, Diddy boy steamed ground beef and an all-beef frank between two slices of American cheese that is topped with pickles and barbecue sauce. To wash it down, try the Vanilla Porter.



CINDER BLOCK BREWERY

110 E. 18th Ave., North Kansas City

cinderblockbrewery.com

Featuring the Northland's premier cidery and some of the best tasting handcrafted beers in the area, this spot is a North Kansas City staple. Try the English Cherry Cider for a tart yet sweet thirst quencher. Craft beer more your thing? Have a Late Night Lean, a high-gravity lager.



FOUR HORSES & A DOG WINERY

15010 Salem Road, Excelsior Springs

fourhorsesandadogwinery.com

Run by two couples, this quaint vineyard and winery showcases some of the region's most delicious semi-dry to dry wines along with craft beers, hard ciders and sangria. Try the Luther's Revenge, with notes of black pepper, raspberry and mint.



DUBIOUS CLAIMS BREWING COMPANY

451 S. Thompson Ave., Excelsior Springs

dubiousclaimsbrewingco.com

This brewery delivers with thirst-quenching beers in a comfortable environment that will keep you coming back! A local favorite is the Blueberry Wheat.



CHOP'S BBQ & CATERING

109 E. Main St., Smithville

chopsbbqandcatering.com

This downtown Smithville joint boasts an impressive selection of smoked meats and delicious sauces. Try the burnt end sandwich with fries, you won't be sorry.

UNCOMMON STAYS IN CLAY



The Elms Hotel and Spa

401 Regent St., Excelsior Springs | elmshotelandspa.com

This historical and opulent gem has been operating in the heart of Excelsior Springs for over 130 years. The current building has been operating since 1912 and today, is home to premier amenities and spa treatments.



Belvoir Winery and Inn

1325 Odd Fellows Road, Liberty | belvoirwinery.com

Belvoir Winery and Inn is a beautiful option for any wedding celebration or weekend stay. Take part in wine tasting or a paranormal investigation in this historic, former Odd Fellows Home.



Payne Jailhouse Bed and Breakfast

426 Concourse Ave., Excelsior Springs

paynejailhousebandb.com

The home of local Police Chief Bill Payne from 1926 to 1953, this renovated jailhouse is the perfect stay for history lovers. The bed and breakfast is in the heart of downtown Excelsior Springs, a prime location for the walkable areas of the city.

Whether you're a history buff who longs to learn while on vacation or someone searching for a tranquil stay while away, Clay County boasts a number of charming hotels and B&Bs with unique flair.



Smithville Historical Museum and Inn

210 N. Bridge St., Smithville

facebook.com/Smithville-Historical-Museum-and-Inn-120400053018

The Smithville Historical Museum and Inn is the perfect place to stay for a history lover. The inn is located downtown within the museum and former Victorian home of one of the city's first prosperous residents.



Inn on Crescent Lake

1261 St Louis Ave., Excelsior Springs | crescentlake.com

Regarded as one of the beautiful stays in the area, this former Georgian Colonial mansion from 1915 sits on 22 acres that includes two bodies of water. Enjoy the great outdoors along with the in-ground pool with your stay in one of the unique guest rooms.

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UNIQUE TRAILS

There's always something to see and do along Clay County Parks' more than 52 miles of multiuse trails around Smithville Lake. Check out some of these hidden gems provided by Clay County Parks' director for your next outdoor adventure.

ANITA B. GORMAN

Starting on Collins Road and ending at the Crow's Creek boat ramp, this trail provides users a 1.9-mile asphalt path along the southeastern shore of Smithville Lake. There is plenty of wildlife to view, especially waterfowl and eagles in the fall and winter.

SMOKE & DAVEY

The 2.5-mile long asphalt portion off Highway W has hills and outlooks to view the north portion of Smithville Lake. The Smoke and Davey trail continues south to end with a peaceful view of Sailboat Cove. The trail also has 13.5 miles of excellent mountain bicycle trails maintained by Earth Riders Mountain Bike Club.

LITTLE PLATTE NORTH

At the end of 188th Street off Highway F is this 2.5-mile asphalt trail that provides users views of the north portion of Smithville Lake. Along this trail, you will find numerous forms of wildlife to view along with large, hardwood trees along the shore of the lake.

JACK RABBIT BEND

There are 7.5 miles of equestrian trails at the Jack Rabbit Bend Trailhead that begin at and wind through the Crow's Creek park. The trail travels south to Lake Access No. 27 and provides gorgeous views and leisurely pathways for riders and their horses. At the trailhead is trailer parking.



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TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION

Educational opportunities in Clay County abound thanks to four public school districts, Kearney, Liberty, North Kansas City and Smithville; a handful of private and parochial schools; and two institutions of higher education, Metropolitan Community College at Maple Woods and William Jewell College.

Kearney's accolades include the high school being ranked in the top 4% of schools in Missouri by U.S. News & World Report; the middle school ranked in the top 3% as well; Project Lead the Way distinguished program; and 76% of the staff has advanced degrees. Liberty is a member of the League of Innovative School Districts

and was named one of the Best Communities for Music Education for nine years in a row.

North Kansas City has four high schools that received accolades including the most challenging high school, eight national model schools and the DESE Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Professional Learning.

U.S. News and World Report ranked Smithville High School No. 2 out of all high schools in Missouri. In addition, in American School and University, the school district was named an award winner for Outstanding Design for common area creation.



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